

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An automatic medium changer comprising:
 - a casing having an openable door;~~wherein~~
 - a medium storing unit storing a plurality of information storage media;
 - a read/write unit reading data from and writing data into the information storage media;
 - and
 - a carrier which reciprocates between the medium storing unit and the read/write unit;
 - a lock mechanism which is capable of locking the door to the casing so as to be in an unopenable state; and
 - a mechanical auto lock/unlock mechanism, ~~and~~
wherein the mechanical auto lock/unlock mechanism causes the lock mechanism to be in an unlocked state when the carrier is located at an evacuation position and causes the lock mechanism to be in a locked state when the carrier moves from the evacuation position to a normal operational area,
 - wherein the mechanical auto lock/unlock mechanism is disposed at a position where the mechanical auto lock/unlock mechanism is operated with a pressure applied by the carrier moving from the normal operational area to the evacuation position.

2. (currently amended): The automatic medium changer, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lock mechanism comprises an engagement portion formed on the door and a lock pin provided in the casing,

wherein the auto lock/unlock mechanism comprises an elastic urging means urging the lock pin in a direction of engaging a tip portion of the lock pin with the engagement portion, and a lever moving the lock pin in a direction of disengaging the tip portion of the lock pin from the engagement portion,~~and~~

the lever is disposed at a position where the lever is operated with a pressure applied by the carrier moving from the normal operational area to the evacuation position.

3. (original): The automatic medium changer, as claimed in claim 2, wherein the lever is so configured as to oscillate with a pressure applied by the carrier to thereby move the lock pin.

4. (withdrawn): The automatic medium changer, as claimed in claim 2, wherein the lever comprises a linear movement member formed integral with the lock pin.

5. (withdrawn): The automatic medium changer, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lock mechanism comprises an engagement portion formed on the door and a stopping pawl formed on one end of an oscillation lever provided in the casing,

the auto lock/unlock mechanism comprises an elastic urging means rotationally urging the oscillation lever in a direction of engaging the stopping pawl with the engagement portion, and a pressure receiving portion located on the oscillation lever which, by receiving a force from an outside, oscillates the oscillation lever in a direction of disengaging the stopping pawl from the engagement portion, and

the oscillation lever is disposed at a position where the pressure receiving portion is pressed by the carrier moving from the normal operational area to the evacuation position.

6. (original): The automatic medium changer, as claimed in claim 2, wherein the lever includes an emergency manipulation portion with which the lever is moved against an urging force applied by the elastic urging means, and

the casing has a small hole perforated manipulating the emergency manipulation portion from an outside.

7. (original): The automatic medium changer, as claimed in claim 2, wherein the elastic urging means is formed of a coil spring.

8. (withdrawn): The automatic medium changer, as claimed in claim 2, wherein the elastic urging means is formed of a helical torsion spring.

9. (original): The automatic medium changer, as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the casing, an unlock switch requesting the lock mechanism to unlock, an open/close state detecting sensor confirming an open/close state of the door, and a controller controlling a driving source of the carrier are arranged in juxtaposition, and

the controller is provided with an evacuation instruction output means, upon receipt of an unlock signal from the unlock switch, outputting to the driving source an evacuation position moving instruction, and a return instruction output means, when confirming that a door opening confirmation signal and a door closing confirmation signal from the open/close state detecting sensor are received in this order, outputting to the driving source a home position return instruction.

10. (original): The automatic medium changer, as claimed in claim 9, wherein a function of the controller is served by a control unit drive-controlling the automatic medium changer as a whole.

11. (original): The automatic medium changer, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evacuation position of the carrier is set at a position outside a space formed between the door and the medium storing unit.

12. (new): An automatic medium changer, comprising:
a casing having an operable door;

a medium storage unit which stores a plurality of information storage media;

a read unit which reads data from the information storage media;

a carrier movable in a first direction so as to be alternatively disposed adjacent to the read unit and the medium storage unit; and

a locking mechanism adapted to lock the operable door,

wherein the carrier is configured to receive one of said plurality of information storage media in a second direction normal to the first direction when in a evacuation position,

wherein the locking mechanism is adapted to unlock the operable door by pressure applied by the carrier when the carrier is positioned in the evacuation position.